The Brethren Evangelist.

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In Days of Old.

In days of old, when Egypt's king
Would crush God's chosen race,
From cruel tasks and bitter hate
He saved them by His grace.

The strength of kings could not prevail
Against His mighty arm;
With wonders and with signs he led
His people free from harm.

So when we fight with sin and wrong,
If God be on our side,
We need not fear what man can do;
In him our souls abide.

A few Brief Responses.

When we sow seeds of kindness and they happen to fall into good ground, how quickly they develop into fruit most gratifying to the sower.

The truthfulness of the above was verified by an ariicle written over the signature of our esteemed sister, Kate Yost, in No. 12.

Bro. Keifer's remarks on spiritism in No. 13, were read with interest; and in connection with which I thought it might not be out of place, to give a little account of the lessons learned in spiritism a few years ago, by the people, of this community. There were in our town a few persons who would entertain those men claiming supernatural endowments, and as a consequence were duped by their ingenious contrivances. One of those men claimed that he would allow his hands to be securely tied with a cord that had been made fast to a certain place in the room, and then after the light was removed (they prefer darkness) he would call the spirit of some departed one to come and lay hands upon the head of each one present. In preparing for the service on that particular occasion, one of the attendants took the precaution to use a liberal supply of lamp-black as a hair dressing. After the usual maneuverings were through with, and each one was willing to testify as to the "laying on of hands" the light was again returned which showed the wonder-working man to be still in his place with hands tied as before but terribly *blackened*. The whole mystery was, that he knew how to extricate his hands and slip them back again, but the others didn't. He suceeded in getting away by the first train. Prof. Star, an exposer of modern spiritism, visited our town shortly afterward, and in a course of lectures exposed many of their secret services, and also offered one hundred dollars to any one who would inform him of a spiritist's mystery which he could not mechanically unravel. The challenge still stands unaccepted, at least in this part of the country. The Prof. advised people to use spiritism, instead of spiritualism, as the former implies the spurious, while the latter means the genuine, and is therefore all right. I have frequently noticed that people who are not willing to believe the humble teachings of Christ, are apt to seek consolation in the delusive mists of spiritism; and then after having discovered their mistake, often becomes subjects of insanity.

It is quite evident that the whole structure, foundation and all, originated in the minds of the people who desire to enjoy all the pleasures of this world, and yet die happily and go to heaven; and as that is altogether contrary to the teachings of the Bible, they are obliged to devise something as a substitute, which can only be done through deception. I am an advocate for spiritualism, but am strongly opposed to modern spiritualism, and the reasons are many.

Sister Julia Wood: Dear soul! how I wish she might get well and strong. Perhaps she might then be able to climb higher, take a broader view, of the principles of Christian religion.

Vanity in dress is indeed very unpleasant to behold, but then are there not many evils just as disagreeable, surrounding us on every hand? Christ's teachings, by explanations commands, promises and threatenings reprove the people of many sins, but no where can we find His word as law for dress. The proud are far from Him. That pride may be in dress, but it may also be displayed in many other ways.

Have charity, dear sister, for Christ does reveal Himself to many who have never conformed to the style of dress which the Conservative portion of the church would enforce upon them. What we are, we are at heart. God knows His own, and will comfort and bless them, though others may take exceptions to their outward apparel. He never required impossibilities of us either, and therefore we should not try to please every body. If we would have the favor of God, we must stand up for the right, though our dearest earthly friends should desert us.

The coming National Convention. Let each one think earnestly about the business which should be then and there transacted. At first sight in viewing the propriety of holding a convention we wondered why the work might or could not be just as effectually accomplished through the columns of the EVANGELIST, when this thought come to our mind, 'Is not the church a family? and as such, should not its members meet occasionally, in order to reap and enjoy the benfit which can only be obtained by personal face to face conversation?' We thought it over again and again, and the answer would be, yes, if they meet in the fear of the Lord and because they love one another. It may be the means of strengthening the love and confidence of the whole brotherhood. It will be if each one goes with a determination to have it so. We believe there are those amongst our members who do vividly realize the importance of promoting the gospel in every way that is right, and therefore hope they may be permitted to assemble, and have divine guidance in devising plans to that end. Ever your sister in the faith.

LAURA SLOTTER.

Columbiana, Ohio.

The Brethren Aunual for 5 cts.

Glenford, Ohio.

I have made no report from my fields for some time. I have "some things in general, some things in particular" to note. The winter season is not a favorable one for aggressive work in Perry county on account of open winters which render the roads almost impassable. As the weather is now assuming a more favorable condition, we can again labor to better advantage.

At North Liberty things are again approaching a normal state. The indebtedness on the house has been pledged and soon the church will be free of debt. At Ankenytown the debt is secured and in about a year that church will be free. Prospects are becoming more favorable all around. I baptized two some time since. One of them made application during Bro. Smouse's meetings.

The churches have two Sunday Schools in operation with wide-awake superintendents. Now let all the members turn out, and success will be sure.

I quit the Eldership of the North Liberty church at the close of my year, and I have taken in connection with my labors at Glenford the Bremen or Mt. Zion church. After Bro. Daniel Hendricks quit work there, the church called upon me, and I felt it my duty to assist them. I am sorry that Bro. H. is not preaching now. He is a zealous and good man.

On Sunday, April 25th, I preached a funeral sermon occasioned by the death of Mr. John Triesh, an aged man of Richland county. On the 27th, I preached a sermon at the funeral of Sister Susanna Leedy, wife of Bro. David Leedy. She was buried at Ankenytown. She had been sick for about five years and on the 25th her soul took flight. Her affliction was great, but now she is relieved. She was a burden to herself and family and yet the family was loth to part with her. Three days before her youngest daughter, a married woman, preceded her to the eternal shore. May we learn that the young as well as the old must die. May God bless all the bereaved and permit them to meet with the redeemed in heaven. The three funerals were largely attended.

A. A. COBER.

Rossville, Ind.

We have just enjoyed another grand and glorious meeting, that I can not help reporting it for the benefit of the many readers of the B. E. Though we rarely see any thing in the paper from here, yet we are all alive to our interest.

A few weeks ago the brethren agreed to have a communion at Edna Mills church, and Saturday evening April 30, was chosen as the time. It was also agreed to have meeting in the afternoon. Punctually at the appointed time Elder J. M. Rittgers, of South Bend, appeared. He preached, as he always does, a splendid sermon to an attentive congregation. After the sermon Brother Addison Michael, who had previously been chosen to the ministry was ordained by the solemn rite of the laying on of hands. After these exercises we repaired to the water's side where two precious souls were "buried with Christ in baptism," and resurrected from the watery grave to walk in newness of life. May God help them and all of us to be faithful. After this the brethren arranged the house for communion services. As the shades of the evening crept silently over us, the people began to gather in and soon the church was well filled with interested spectators; meanwhile the tables were surrounded by the children of God. The services were conducted by Bro. Rittgers, and were solemn and impressive upon the minds of all. Notwithstanding the large crowd the meeting was characteristic of stern silence.

While performing the sacred ordinances our minds reverted back to that upper chamber. We thought of His dying love! the cross! the death-agonies! the burial! the resurrection! the ascension! and oh! we thought of His majestic appearing at the end of time! With these thoughts our innermost hearts were filled and thrilled with joy unspeakable. With joys that none but the child of God can experience. What a God we have to worship! What a Savior to adore! The world may talk of all its pleasures, but brethren do not the pleasures we enjoy in sweet communion with our God exceed them all? The pleasures of this world are at most but transitory, while the joys of the Lord last through all eternity. After these seasons of sacred bliss we can not help to be strengthened in our spiritual life. To really enjoy such a meeting one must be a participant.

On Sunday morning and in the evening Brother Rittgers preached able discourses. We were all encouraged by his soul stirring talks, and feel to go with renewed determinations to fight the good fight of faith. May God help us all to enjoy many more such meetings while we live, preparatory to meet Him in his glory, is our prayer.

Yours in Christian love.

JOHN A. MILLER.

Falls City Items.

Our Sunday school is now fully organized with Elder Berkeybile and the other preacher superintendents; F. Shafer, treasurer; Felicia Shafer, secretary; William Moore, chorister; Frank Shafer and Ada Kimmel, librarians. We use Cook's quarterlies. The school is well attended and every thing looks promising.

Elder Stump has been preaching regularly in some of the neighboring school houses for the last several months. He intends going to the German Baptists meeting in Kansas, as a missionary to the lost sheep of the house of the German Baptists, I suppose. He hopes to meet elders Hendricks, McClintock, Davis, Showalter and a score of others with whom he expects to exchange fraternal greetings and perhaps plan for some work for the Master.

The writer also expects to be at at Ottawa, at the National S. S. Convention and the opening of the *Dunkard* meeting, as the Western R. R's. have advertised the "Big Meeting" this year.

Our love feast has been appointed for the fifth of June, to be held in the Silver Creek meeting house, services beginning at 5 o'clock p. m. There will also be preaching Friday evening previous to the love feast. This notice is here given for the benefit of all of our brethren, adjoining, and otherwise, who desire to be with us at that time. All will be made welcome, and are hereby invited to come.

Several of the brethren and sisters of this congregation found their way to the preacher's house, one rainy day lately, bringing with them evidence of love and kindess, and if the day would have been fine there would have been a general outpouring of brethren and sisters and love and kindness, so I am told. The preacher's heart was made to feel glad and he was made to reflect back, over the years gone by, when his humble efforts at preaching the word were rewarded in altogether a different manner. He has been made to realize that the "gospel alone" has had good influence upon those who have accepted that plattorm, for which he is thankful.

E. L. YODER.

Canaan, O.

Bro. P. J. Brown was here April the 30th, and gave his lecture as advertised. The weather was fine and the people turned out well. Everybody was pleased. Some expressed a desire that he come in the near future and preach us a sermon. Which he has agreed to do.

Well, this seems to be a troublesome world, and there are a great many things to do that to us are very unpleasant, but Bro. Brown's lecture is one of the pleasant things to those who have nothing more to do than listen. Then again it is instructive and sublime. Besides it leaves an impression upon the audience, causing a desire to become better acquainted with him.

J. B. YODER.

Polo, Ill.

We arrived at this place yesterday evening at 7 p. m., safe and well. We (that is Mrs. Fahrney, Miss Bower and myself) left home on the 23rd of April for this place. We first went to Philadelphia and spent a short time with our beloved brother John Duke. Left them well on the 29th intending to visit Ashland and North Manchester, but decided to visit these places and friends on our way back to Md. The Brethren are at work in earnest in Philadelphia. They have a live Sunday school and a grand prayer meeting, as well as their regular preaching.

We intend moving westward on our visit as far as Sterling, Kansas, but not till about June 1st. It is very windy here now.

T. J. FAHRNEY.

May 2nd, 1887.